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CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 GO6F15/167 GO6F G06F15/173 G06F5/06 G06F13/40 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G06F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 5 968 153 A (WHEELER WILLIAM R ET AL) 1-11 19 October 1999 (1999-10-19) column 7, line 40 -column 8, line 37; figures 2,5,6 Α EP 0 483 970 A (IBM) 1 - 116 May 1992 (1992-05-06) column 2, line 37 -column 3, line 35 US 6 018 620 A (CULLEY PAUL R ET AL) Α 1 - 1125 January 2000 (2000-01-25) column 2, line 12 -column 3, line 28 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 02/01/2004 16 December 2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Thibaudeau, J

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